

Chautauqua FAQ

The Chautauqua Pedestrian Improvement Project (Chautauqua project) will construct a sidewalk on the south side of Baseline Road from 6th Street east to the historic trolley and current transit stop (which is also known as King's Gate) near the park boundary west of 10th Street; improve pedestrian crossings at intersections within the project area; connect to Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) designated access trails; make the existing transit stop compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA); and install pedestrian lighting and way-finding elements from the project area into Chautauqua Park. The total project budget is \$1.5 million and is funded by the 2014 voter-approved Community, Culture and Safety Tax.

Vegetation pruning and removal will begin in the fall of 2016. Project construction is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2016 and will take six months to complete.

What is the scope of the Chautauqua project and how is it funded?

The Chautauqua project was one of the projects listed in the 2014 voter-approved [Community, Culture and Safety tax](#). The projects for the ballot initiative were identified and approved by [City Council on August 5, 2014](#). (See Attachment G-1: Chautauqua Concept Design.) City Council identified the Chautauqua project boundary as the area along Baseline Road from Chautauqua Park's boundary at King's Gate west of 10th street, to 6th street.

Could this money be used for other sidewalk projects?

As the ballot initiative dedicated money to specific City Council approved projects, this money cannot be reallocated to other projects. However, the City of Boulder has a [Missing Sidewalk Links](#) program. This city program identifies, prioritizes and constructs missing sidewalk segments to provide a continuous pedestrian network and ensure a safe walking environment. Missing sidewalk links outside of the Chautauqua project scope can be recommended to the Missing Sidewalk Links program for future missing sidewalk link prioritization and construction.

Please explain the sidewalk design and maintenance plan for the project's pedestrian improvements.

The Chautauqua project sidewalk will be built to a width (five feet) that allows year-round maintenance (i.e. to accommodate snow removal equipment) but does not negatively impact large, mature trees in the park.

Sidewalks constructed along Baseline Road from 6th Street to Grant Place/Kinnikinic Road will continue into Chautauqua along Kinnikinic Road, connecting pedestrians to existing sidewalks and to the Chautauqua trailhead. To honor the historic nature of the project area, alternative materials to concrete are being considered for the pedestrian connections interior to Chautauqua.

Pedestrian crossings along Baseline Road will be improved through installation of a raised median west of the intersection of Grant Place/Kinnikinic Road and Baseline Road and through the installation of

bulb-outs at Queen's Gate, King's Gate and Kinnikinic Road. The median and bulb-outs will reduce the potential for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Additionally, ADA-compliant curb ramps will be installed at intersections within the project area.

What type of lighting will be installed in Chautauqua?

The Chautauqua project improvements include pedestrian lighting from the King's Gate entrance to the parking lot east of the tennis courts in Chautauqua Park, and lighting of the historic King's Gate and Arbor structures along this path.

No additional lighting will be installed along Baseline Road or OSMP public land.

The Chautauqua project lighting improvement designs and locations are guided by Phase I of the Colorado Chautauqua Master Exterior Lighting Plan. The master plan provides light for safety and comfort while preserving the natural resources and atmosphere that make the park so unique.

The lighting program set forth in the master plan will help retain a low level of natural ambient light suitable for open space and mountain parks, and support the Chautauqua's green building goals by saving energy and reducing waste. Low-glare, well-placed lighting will provide a safe and comfortable nighttime environment. Specific control measures will ensure that lighting is not used when it is not needed.

How will the historic character of Chautauqua be incorporated into project improvements?

The Chautauqua project is an interdepartmental City of Boulder project that honors the historic and natural character of the area through design and material selection while providing important safety improvements.

A new retaining wall will be constructed between Kinnikinic Road and Queen's Gate. The newly constructed retaining wall will reflect the historic context of the current retaining wall, east of Queen's Gate, through design and material selection.

Additionally, alternative materials to concrete are being considered for the improved pedestrian connections from Baseline Road along Kinnikinic Road to the paths and trails interior to Chautauqua.

How does the Chautauqua project honor the natural areas of Chautauqua?

Open Space and Mountain Parks works with the community to establish management objectives for different parts of the OSMP system using characteristics, goals and criteria defined in the OSMP [Visitor Master Plan](#), which City Council approved in 2005. As part of that plan, the Chautauqua meadow was designated a passive recreation area, meaning that high levels of visitor use would be accommodated in ways that also protect natural and cultural resources. In other words, the department must balance the desires of the community to use the area's trails for hiking and other activities with desires to preserve its natural and historic character.

The city recognizes that the addition of a sidewalk may change the visual character of the meadow as seen from Baseline Road. However, the Chautauqua project helps achieve many objectives for this area in a balanced way by minimizing the number of undesigned or “social trails” that are damaging to the meadow, removing non-native vegetation, reestablishing native shrubs and improving access to designated trails for individuals with disabilities.

How will the project impact the vegetation in the project area?

The sidewalk project will require pruning and removal of select plants and trees, and the vegetation to be removed includes invasive, semi-native and native species. The project team is working to preserve as much vegetation as possible.

For Parks and Recreation lands, staff will be removing volunteer and non-native plants and trees while preserving the larger historic trees in the park. To mitigate the loss of trees and plants in the sidewalk footprint, staff will plant a number of new trees of varying species in the north area of the park. These will be planted in alignment with the [Chautauqua Landscape Assessment and Plan](#), which calls for thinning “overgrown vegetation along Baseline Road to open up views into the Chautauqua Green.”

Currently, the Chautauqua Meadow along Baseline Road is inundated with smooth brome and non-native shrubs. The Chautauqua project provides an opportunity to bring in native plantings. Shrubland communities form important wildlife habitat providing food and sheltered sites for bird nesting and denning or burrowing animals. To encourage native wildlife in the area, native shrubs such as American plum (*Prunus americana*), chokecherry (*Padus virginiana ssp melanocarpa*) and three leaf sumac (*Rhus aromatic ssp trilobata*) will be planted on the hillside after sidewalk construction is complete.

How will the project improvements impact storm water?

Native plantings within OSMP lands west of Kinnikinic Road will provide similar storm water benefits as the existing invasive vegetation. Even with a small increase in the amount of impervious surfaces, storm water runoff conditions may improve because new curb and gutter and bioengineering solutions for soil stabilization will be explored later in the design process.

The project team will also be reviewing the preliminary plans with the related city work groups including Utilities-Storm Water, public works maintenance, and community planning and sustainability.

Does the Chautauqua project address parking?

Parking at or near Chautauqua is not part of the Chautauqua project’s scope. Project improvements do, however, impact the number of parking spaces along the south side of Baseline Road.

The improved ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings along Baseline Road and the speed mitigation measures will remove three parking spaces from the south side of Baseline Road. To mitigate the loss of these parking spaces, the city’s preliminary plan is to re-align the current parallel parking along the north side of Sumac Drive within Chautauqua Park to accommodate angled parking. This realignment will replace the lost parking and provide three additional parking spaces. These three additional parking spaces will be converted from vehicle to bicycle parking and will also accommodate a B-Cycle bike sharing station.

Parking at and near Chautauqua will be addressed through the 2016 Chautauqua Access Management Plan (CAMP). CAMP was developed in the August 2015 lease agreement between the city and the Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA), out of recognition that “Chautauqua needs a tailored access management to balance the access of the variety of users and modes while also maintaining natural, built and historic environments.”

Does the Chautauqua project address public transportation?

The 2016 CAMP process will provide an opportunity to assess and address the public transportation needs of the Chautauqua area. This project will not.

What bicycle improvements are part of the Chautauqua project?

Bicycle infrastructure is not part of the original Chautauqua project scope. However, some project improvements provide opportunities to address the request for more and better bicycle infrastructure within Chautauqua Park.

Three parking spaces created inside the park by the new angled parking will be converted from vehicle to bicycle parking and will also accommodate a B-Cycle bike sharing station. Additionally, the preliminary plan for the King’s Gate reconstruction is being reviewed to identify design changes that would make the facility more accessible to bicycles.

Looking forward, the 2016 CAMP process will provide an additional opportunity to assess and address the bicycling needs of the Chautauqua area.

Will the Chautauqua project improvements manage access to Chautauqua?

Limiting access to Chautauqua is not part of the Chautauqua project scope. The 2016 CAMP will address access management through a holistic, comprehensive and area-wide approach using existing access management strategies as well as pilot programs to test potential for innovative solutions, when appropriate.

Questions about the amount of visitor use on Open Space and Mountain Parks land are also beyond the scope of the Chautauqua project. However, City Council has asked OSMP to address the sustainability of current visitor levels and trends in visitation as part of an update of the Visitor Master Plan (VMP). The VMP addresses all OSMP lands, including Chautauqua. The update is scheduled to begin in 2016.

How will the project provide for speed mitigation along Baseline Road?

The Chautauqua project will make permanent the existing traffic-calming treatments that were installed as part of a pilot program. Those treatments are the pedestrian median and curb bulb-out treatments at Baseline and Kinnikinic Roads and at King’s Gate. Additional bulb-outs at intersections within the project area are also being considered. Combined, these treatments should reduce traffic speed through the project area and improve pedestrian safety.